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Serial No.: 109/608,507

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A parenterally-administrable microparticle for providing sustained-release of a therapeutic agent in the body, comprising:

a core comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent,

a first film comprising a first biodegradable polymer comprising hydroxypropyl-methyl cellulose encapsulating said core, and

a second film applied to said first film and encapsulating said first film and said core, said second film comprising a second biodegradable polymer comprising an alkyd polyester wax soluble in an appropriate solvent for said second polymer, wherein said core comprises a third biodegradable polymer comprising an alkyd polyester wax having said therapeutic agent dispersed there through, and said first film is insoluble in and impervious to said solvent for said second biodegradable polymer.

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 4~~claim 1 wherein said third biodegradable polymer and said second biodegradable polymer are the same.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 4~~claim 1 wherein said third biodegradable polymer and said second polymer are different.

Claims 7-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 9~~claim 5 wherein said second and third biodegradable polymers comprise poly(monostearoyl glycerol-co-succinate) and said first biodegradable polymer comprises hydroxypropyl-methyl cellulose.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The microparticle of claim 1 comprises from about 0.1 to about 50 percent by weight of said therapeutic agent.

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Claim 12 (previously presented): The microparticle of claim 11 wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, growth factors, drugs and biologically active agents.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 2~~claim 1 comprising from about 0.1 to about 50 % of said first film by weight of said core.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 2~~claim 1 comprising from about 0.5 to about 200 % of said second film by weight of said core.

Claim 15 (currently amended): Compositions for parenteral administration and sustained-release of therapeutic agents' comprising:

- a microparticle, said microparticle comprising ,
  - a core comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a therapeutic agent,
  - a first film comprising a first biodegradable polymer comprising  
hydroxypropyl-methyl cellulose encapsulating said core, and
  - a second film applied to said first film and encapsulating said first film and said core, said second film comprising a second biodegradable polymer comprising an alkyl polyester wax soluble in an appropriate solvent for said second polymer,
- wherein said core comprises a third biodegradable polymer comprising an alkyl polyester wax having said therapeutic agent dispersed there through, and said first film is insoluble in and impervious to said solvent for said second biodegradable polymer, and;
- a biocompatible suitable carrier for said microparticle.

Claims 16-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): The composition of ~~claim 18~~claim 15 wherein said third biodegradable polymer and said second biodegradable polymer are the same.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The composition of ~~claim 18~~claim 15 wherein said third biodegradable polymer and said second polymer are different.

Claims 21-23 (canceled)

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Claim 24 (currently amended): The composition of ~~claim 23~~claim 19 wherein said second and third biodegradable polymers comprise poly(monostearoyl glycerol-co-succinate) and said first biodegradable polymer comprises hydroxypropyl-methyl cellulose.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The composition of claim 15 comprising from about 0.1 to about 50 percent by weight of said therapeutic agent.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The composition of claim 25 wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, growth factors, drugs and biologically active agents.

<sup>27</sup>  
Claim ~~28~~ (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 16~~claim 15 comprising from about 0.1 to about 50 % of said first film by weight of said core.

<sup>28</sup>  
Claim ~~29~~ (currently amended): The microparticle of ~~claim 16~~claim 15 comprising from about 0.5 to about 200 % of said second film by weight of said core.